

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED APRIL 25, 2005

Appln. No. 10/764,616

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings are replacement sheets
which include Figures 1-8.

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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 25, 2005. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Submission of Formal Drawings

Applicants submit herewith, for review and approval by the Examiner, replacement sheets 1-7 providing formal drawings of Figures 1-8. No new matter has been added.

Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, that Claims 5-9 and 18-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their respective base claims and any intervening claims upon which they depend.

Summary of the Rejections

Claims of 1-4, 10-13 and 24-31 are rejected as anticipated by US Patent Number 3,807,254 to Brakebill. Claims 14 and 32 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,429,711 to Schomer. Claims 17 and 35 are rejected as obvious over Schomer. Claims 15, 16, 33 and 34 are rejected as obvious over Schomer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,209,366 to Zagoroff.

Summary of the Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended Claim 1 by incorporating the subject matter of allowable Claim 5 therein, canceling Claim 5. Applicants have amended Claims 6 and 9 by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 1 into each of these claims. Applicants contend that Claims 1, 6 and 9 are allowable consistent with the Examiner's remarks in the Action. Furthermore, any claims dependent upon these claims are also

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allowable for the same reasons that these claims are allowable.

Applicants have canceled Claims 10-13 without prejudice. Claim 14 has been amended by including the subject matter of allowable Claim 18 therein, Claim 18 being canceled. Furthermore, applicants has amended allowable Claim 19 by including the subject matter of Claim 14, on which it depends, therein. Applicants contend that these amendments render Claims 14 and 19 allowable, as well as any claims dependent upon these two claims. Claims 24-35 are canceled without prejudice.

Summary

Applicants contend that the amendments to the claims place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants request, therefore, that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures